

May 20, 2019

To the Residents Taylor, Michigan

I resign my position as elected City Treasurer effective immediately. This official notification has today been delivered to the City Council, Mayor Sollars and the City attorney.

It has been truly an honor to serve as your City Treasurer for the past five and a half years and to become Taylor's FIRST certified professional treasurer. I am proud to say that during my tenure I assembled a team of dedicated and highly competent staff to efficiently operate the Treasurer's office and to provide you with first rate service. Innovative uses of technologies enabled our great office staff to provide prompt and accurate service. I am leaving office today knowing that the office is in capable hands.

As most of you know, I have had serious health issues affecting my mobility and other life activities. Even though I was not able to be physically present in the office, the technological improvements we adopted allowed me to discharge my duties remotely. I was never criticized by anyone while I worked remotely and many of you complimented me for the quick service, I was able to provide you. Not even one time!

The City Council and Mayor Sollars ambushed me on December 18, 2018 when they voted to take my salary away from me. I received no notice of this meeting and I was not afforded an opportunity to tell my side of the story. As any other public employee, the United States Constitution guaranteed me due process before I could be deprived of my salary. The City Council and Mayor Sollars acted like the United States Constitution didn't apply to our city. They were wrong so I fought back with a federal court lawsuit to enforce my Constitutional rights.

I continued to fulfill my duties as your Treasurer even though the City Council and Mayor essentially stole my pay from me. Rather than recognizing how wrong they were and making amends, the City Council and the Mayor retaliated against me because I stood up and rightfully sued them to restore my salary. Only the Governor and you, the residents of Taylor, could remove me from office. Ignoring the law, the Council and Mayor, with the assistance of the City attorney, tried to railroad me out of office with a phony hearing. They proceeded over my objections and the objections of my attorney and many of you. To those who stood with me I say THANK YOU.

Rather than continue fighting with the Council and Mayor, I decided that it would be in my best interest to resolve my legal dispute. All I ever wanted was fair treatment and the settlement that I reached with the City achieves that goal, for its theft of my compensation. The City offered to settle the matter for \$45,000 and I accepted its offer. I will pay my attorney fees and taxes out of the \$45,000.

The City insisted that I agree not to speak about what they did to me and my family. The City put a gag order in the settlement agreement. I refused to give up my First Amendment right to speak out about how horribly I was treated. The City, knowing they were wrong in trying to gag me, and we removed this in the settlement agreement. The city didn't want transparency, I insisted for full transparency!

Some of you may think I settled cheap and some of you may think I didn't deserve anything. All I can say is that the settlement was fair and I wanted to move on so that the all the stress associated with this fight could be eliminated and could focus full time on improving my health. I did not want to take too much from you the taxpayers so I agreed to a settlement number that worked best for me and hopefully you the taxpayers.

To all you who supported me I say THANK YOU again. The Treasurer's office is in good hands

and I know you will be taken care of promptly and professionally.

I conclude my message to you with a warning to you about your City government. There is a pervasive aroma of arrogance and egomania permeating City government. I am victim of this hubris. Some of our leaders are not trustworthy, and we all need to keep a careful eye on them to make sure they act professionally, morally and legally. I saw this from inside City Hall and what you can't see isn't pretty.

As President Kennedy said so eloquently, "the only thing for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Stand up for your rights as members of community. Please heed my warning.

Thank you and God Bless.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Bourassa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Edward Bourassa